

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.
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STOP THIEF! (J. P. Guinon)

In every fair-sized assemblage of humans will be found a certain percentage of those who believe that dishonest methods can be made to pay dividends. Some, although having considerable faith in this theory, still retain enough sanity or integrity to refrain from putting it to the test, but occasionally will be found one who, if given the opportunity, will try his luck at getting something for nothing, even though the venture gains him little in actual assets, and costs him the friendship and esteem of those who had counted him a square-shooter.

It is now a generally recognized fact that crooks are deficient mentally, but that is not sufficient excuse to permit them to pursue their mistaken ways unchecked among those whose brains are up to par. Therefore it is frequently necessary for the good of all normal individuals to make the way of the transgressor harder and the results of his scheming not always pleasant. This can be done most effectively if those who are his past or prospective victims combine against him. Nothing upsets a crook so thoroughly as plenty of publicity.

Since dime novels have become valuable, collectors of or dealers in these interesting items have at times been victimized by dishonest persons, who frequently have escaped penalty for their underhanded work, usually because the crook was located at a distance and the victim therefore unable to reach him personally without some

inconvenience. The help of the authorities seldom has been solicited because of the trouble involved and the disinclination of the defrauded one to admit publicly that he had been swindled. This false pride has prevented more than one cheated collector of novels from taking measures that would have almost certainly resulted in punishment of the slicker, who, of course, counted heavily on all the above-described factors for immunity when planning his steal.

It is easy to bring these criminals to justice and discourage future crooked activities of a similar kind if one is willing to go to a little trouble, and results are certainly worth the effort required. The post office authorities are usually involved, and therefore quite willing to use all their very efficient machinery in squaring the score if the complaint is intelligently presented to them. They work slowly, it is true, but with certainty, and eventually the crook lands in federal court, where, even if he escapes a fine or jail sentence, his attorney's fees and the unfavorable publicity he receives in his community during the trial leaves him loser on the whole transaction.

The writer, two years ago, was one of several victims of a schemer who operated from Lincolnton, North Carolina, and adjacent towns, and spent several months, before submitting the case to the post office authorities, in accumulating evidence against the cheat from others who likewise had been taken in. Their aid was willingly given, and as a result, after the entire collection of proof was forwarded to

the Department of Justice, federal authorities hauled their man into court, March 21, 1938, at Shelby, North Carolina, where he pleaded guilty and was given a six-months' sentence. On his promise to make full restitution this crook managed to get a probation, and the writer is now following up the case to see that such restitution is made, not only in his own case, but in all other instances involved.

This particular swindler certainly has failed to show a profit in his shady transaction, and will be quite likely to think things over pretty seriously before attempting any further coups among novel collectors.

It is only by such energetic and determined action against the thief and swindler that the interesting hobby of novel collecting can be kept safe from their depredations. But the results are worth all the effort required, and any one who has been bilked should, in the interest of all other collectors as well as himself, do all in his power to get his case into court. If he is weak enough to swallow his humiliation and loss without striking back, the thief, laughing at his victim's spinelessness, is encouraged to try again, and a hazard against the successful building-up of a novel collection is thus permitted to exist.

(Note. From your President: Bro. Guinon is right. Something ought to be done or our Novel Hobby will be a complete loss all around. These fellows will become bolder and bolder, and every one that's interested in novels, and does any buying, or trading, will not be safe, while such fellows as these are around, so Brothers and Subscribers, let's all put our shoulder to the wheel, and get rid of these swindlers. They have received many warnings, but do not heed them, so something must be done, and done now. Reckless Ralph Cummings.

"SCIENTIST COLLECTS DIME NOVELS"

By Edwin Brooks

"Then, with victorious shouts, the rough crowd strode away and Deadwood Dick sunk gradually into the yielding sand to his horrible doom"—From "Deadwood Dick's Doom."

Professor Albert Johannsen of the University of Chicago has 4,500 such original dime novels. As old-timers know, they were popular from 1860 to 1905, and many were the boys who read them in the hayloft to avoid parental wrath.

A nationally recognized authority on the science of rocks, Professor Johannsen makes collecting these tales one of his numerous hobbies. For safety, the rare collection is kept in fire-proof storage. He reads some of the stories but not many.

Sixty-five years old, but looking 50, he will retire the end of this year and write a bibliography on the dime novel. He said recently:

"I get a kick out of trying to get a complete set of something."

"When I was a kid all the fellows were reading these things. The 'pulp' replaced the dime novels. Now young people know little more about them than the titles. Like the Library of Congress, I'm helping preserve these yarns."

"They included not only blood and thunder plots, but also detective, sea and love stories."

MAW GREEN ON THE DIME NOVEL

MRS. REDHEAD: "Who lets hear-say mould her judgment? Oh, those terrible, terrible dime novels!"

MAW GREEN: (Who investigates before passing her opinions) "What is it that is so terrible about the dime novels?"

MRS. REDHEAD: "Why, the shooting and all that—Somebody gets hurt on nearly every page! It's bad on the morals of our youth. These trashy books demoralize the rising generation."

MAW GREEN: "Oh, yeah? It's only the villains that receives the mortal wounds in those old books. Crime niver paid at all, at all; and right always triumphed. Detective stories are a lot like 'em tuh day, 'cept we don't hide in hay mows and attics to read 'em like the kids used to do in tother days."

MRS. REDHEAD: "Oh, but there was a lot more difference than that Mrs. Green."

MAW GREEN: Yis, sure — just the difference of one dollar and ninety cents; thass all.

—Adapted by W. B. McCafferty from Harold Gray's comic strip, "Maw Green."

"DIME NOVEL-ITIS"

One of America's most distinguished petrologists collects dime novels as a hobby. He is Dr. Albert Johannsen, professor emeritus of the department

of petrology of the University of Chicago, author of learned works on petrology. Dr. Johannsen has some 5,000 dime novels in his collection, beginning with "Malaska," by Mrs. Ann Stevens, published in 1860 by the now defunct Beadle & Adams. He has all the Deadwood Dick dime novels (and hasn't read a single one!); books of the Half Dime Library, published by Beadle & Adams (in the '70s they began to call them libraries); dozens of detective dime novels of the '80s; revolutionary war tales, love stories, Indian stories, and the later western stories. He is doing a bibliography of the Beadle & Adams publications which will delight other dime novel collectors. There is said to be some 700 of them throughout the country.

EDWIN BROOKS.

NEWSY NEWS THAT'S ALL IN THE NEWS

Lou Kohrt, 2947 N. 54th St., Milwaukee, Wisc., Member No. 62, says he had a fine time on his vacation last summer. Lou took a trip to New Orleans, La., and the Gulf Port. Went down by way of Davenport, Iowa, and stopped over for an hour and paid one of our members (No. 5) Mr. George N. Beck, 2114 Scott St., a visit. Lou says George is a fine chap, and that he had a pleasant talk with him, also did a little trading, as I always take along a grip full of old timers, and always manage to get within speaking distance of one of the members at least. Wanted to run in on J. P. Guinon at Little Rock, Ark. We stopped in Arkansas one of the nights out, but got in his territory too late in the week, although we were only about a hundred miles from his place. Also wanted to get to Coral Gables, Florida, and visit Fred T. Singleton, but run into an American Legion convention at Gulf Port. I figure on a run down to Florida next summer and will see if I can get there then. Funniest thing is the year I went over to Philadelphia to visit Chas. Austin. I hate to admit it, but I sure clean forgot Bob Smeltzer. Did ask Charley about him, but did not think about it again until we were down in Washington, D. C. What's the matter with the rest of some of the members taking a few trips and dropping around to visit the members. Get acquainted. I haven't given up hopes of getting your way and dropping in on you. Been that way twice now, and each time closer. Glad to have some of the boys

run up this way. And can you imagine I passed through Lancaster, Pa., and forgot to call on member (No. 45) Ray Caldwell, and missed seeing one fine collection of novels. Oh, yah, I been a-kicking myself many the time for doing it, too.

Fisco Bert Couch, P. O. Box 2297, San Francisco, Calif., Member (No. 32), had a nice vacation himself, made 4235 miles thru seven States and Vancouver, British Columbia, in a private car, with his Heroine and another couple. He's sorry he didn't get near enough to any of the Brother Members to visit them. Better luck next time, Bert.

Our friend, Billee Benners: I, Reckless Ralph, managed to have him here with me for a three weeks' vacation; then we went down to Boston together, and stayed a while. I came home after a four-day stay, and Billee stayed in Boston, Mass., for a while longer, while I was at home a-getting dear old Roundup ready for the printers. Then my brother-in-law, Ernest De Orsey, a one-time member of the Brotherhood, fell off the barn roof, and was hurt; so Billee, instead of going up to New York, by way of Providence, N. Y., came out this way instead, to see how bad Ernest was, and I managed to get Billee to stay five more days with me. Then he went Saturday, November 5th. I've been getting things ready for winter, and helping to fix up things that were damaged in the hurricane, and getting the Roundup out, so now I expect to be back with Billee again before New Year's, as Billee is worse than ever, now. November 13th. George French, 121 W. Passaic Ave., Bloomfield, N. J., Member (No. 12); Eli A. Messier, 117 Morton Ave., Woonsocket, R. I., Member (No. 81); and Joseph Potaski, Main St., Farnumville, Mass., Member (No. 13), were here to visit me. And we sure had a swell time, a-talking over novels and doing a little trading; and on December 4th. Bro. Eli Messier and H. O. Rawson, 53 Channing St., Worcester, Mass., Member (No. 39), were here. A fine lot of fellows they are. Billee has also met Bro. Messier and Potaski. When Billee and I left Philadelphia for Fisherville Septemehr 23rd, and arrived in New York that night, as we had a late start; so, while we only had that night to go around, I suggested we go visit P. C. Maroske, in the meantime which we did, and saw his collection; that is, some of it; as Bro. Maroske expected to go away about 4 o'clock next morning, so we didn't have much

time. Then back to New York we went. Next morning, we sailed up the Hudson River, on the last steamer, the Robert Fulton, to the Matskill Mountains, at Haines Falls, N. Y. We passed some very nice places on our way up the river, such as Palisades Amusement Park, the Palisades themselves, which is a wonderful sight, up past Fort Tryon, under the George Washington Bridge, Dobbs Ferry, Piermont, Irvington, Tarrytown, Sing Sing Prison, Hook Mountains, Peekskill, under the Bear Mountain Bridge, which is one of the most beautiful places I ever saw. When I came down with Ray Caldwell, last August, we came over this bridge.

Then we passed Sugar Loaf Mountain, West Point, on the Hudson, and no doubt every one has heard of West Point; then up past Newbury, where Geo. Washington had his headquarters, then Poughkeepsie, Kingston, and then the Catskills. On our way up the up-on, we passed Stoney Point, where Bro. Richard Cecil Burleigh lives, son of the great novel writer back in the early 90's or before that. Then we passed Haverstraw, where one of our ex-members lives, Charles Lenhart, and to think we were so near, without stopping, yet so far. Then we landed at the Catskills, and got into a taxi-bus, and rode up into the mountains, about 15 miles, to Haines Falls, Catskill Mountains, N. Y. Billee and I were up there eight days. Many places Uncle Billee took me, to show me the wonderful things to be seen, and I believe it did Billee good to travel over the old ground once more. We went up to the old mountain house, and on a clear day, they say you can look for fifty miles, and see Albany, also the Berkshire Mountains, in Massachusetts. I sure hated to leave. Other places up there were: First and Second Cascades, Water Falls, The Sofa, The Sphinx, Sunset Rock, Boulder Rock, Alligators Jaws, Santa Cruz Falls, Twilight Inn, Squirrel Inn, Lawel House, and The Vista, where we were staying. Then after the eight days were up, we left for my place, homeward bound, via Albany, N. Y., across the river to Pittsfield, Mass., and down to Springfield through the Berkshire Mountains, then on to Worcester, which is but nine miles from Fisherville, and was I glad to see old Massachusetts once more. Guess I must have been a little homesick, eh? then home to Fisherville (Saundersville), Mass.

Prof. Johannsen has just returned home after a four months' vacation

trip in Europe.

"The Bad-Men Are Coming Back," by Helen Gilmore. A two-page article on the James Boys, getting into the Movies, with two old time illustrations, will be found in the Liberty Magazine, December 31, 1938.

Who is K. F. Hill, the author who wrote for Beadle & Adams? Send information to your Publisher of Roundup.

The Deadwood Dick Library was the set of Edward Wheeler's writings taken from Beadle's Pocket Library in the same order in which they first appeared. M. J. Ivers simply took the electrotpe plate and substituted the Deadwood Dick heading and added the colored covers. George S. Barton.

We hear that L. H. Lahmon, Route 2, Angola, Ind., died the last part of this summer. He was an ex-member of the H. H. Bro., and a member of the Novel Collectors Union, back in 1906. He has been a novel reader for a good many years, as well as a contributor to several novel articles in the Roundup, Happy Hours Magazine, and others. He will be greatly missed by the members in our circle. God Bless him.

Let's all help Ralph Smith, Box 985, Lawrence, Mass., to get Happy Hours Magazine started for 1939. We miss this dime novel paper. 50c per year, and worth it, too.

And how about Robert Burns-Novel Mart? This would make a fine novel paper, if he, Bob, would only cut out the mail-order, and run novel items, etc. His address, 117 S. Smallwood St., Baltimore, Md., 35c per year. Can you beat it?

And how about "The Collector's Miscellany"? Another novel and Penny-Blood Magazine, with illustrations of the old timers, such as "Scarce Dreadfuls" in the "Medocraft Collection", also the Barry Ono Collection, and other fine articles. 37c per year. Let's give our English paper a boost, too. Address: Joseph Parks, Amber St., Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Yorks, England.

Send 10c to The Des Moines Sunday Register, Des Moines, Iowa, for a copy of the Des Moines Sunday Register for November 27, 1938. There's an article on Oil Coomes, writer for Beadle & Adams.

NOTICE

The next Roundups will be kind of late—also the Birthday Number. This will give everybody a chance, far and near, to send in an ad or writeup.

Reckless Ralph Cummings.

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50. J. P. Guinon, Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.
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63. Wm. Langell, 1654 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, Calif.
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 72. Willis E. Hurd, 3500—22nd St., N., Arlington, Va.
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 75. W. S. Houston, 116 Church St., Greensboro, N. C.
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 97. Miss Della Garrett, 121 S. Brown St., Minden, Nebr.
 98. Miss Grace Burgess, 121 University St., South, Vermillion, S. Dak.
 99. Miss Gladys Leonard, 101 University St., Vermillion, S. Dak.
 100. John V. Johnson, R. F. D. 1, Box 35, Warwick, N. Dak.
 101. J. H. Ambruster, 1458 Pensacola Ave., Chicago, Illinois.
 - Dick), 315 South 12th St., Norfolk, Nebr.
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 103. Colonel Charles D. Randolph. (Buckskin Bill), 2108 E. 13th St., Davenport, Iowa.
 104. Victor Randolph (Nevada Vic) Princeton, Iowa.
 105. Col. B. R. Pearson (Idaho Bill), Hastings, Nebr.
 106. Irwin S. Cobb (Writer), 830 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.
 107. Thomas C. Grant (Silver Tip) Deadwood, S. Dakota.
 108. Wm. W. Giles (Beaver Bill), 213 —11th St., Rock Island, Ill.
 109. Gilbert Patten (Bert L. Standish of Frank Merriwell Fame) Hudson View Gardens, New York City, N. Y.
 110. V. Valta Parma-Curator Rare Book Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.
 111. Wm. J. Benners (Old Story Writer and Publisher) 1815 N. 16th St., Phila., Pa.

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 22. Frank F. Fries, 519 Church St., Orrville, Ohio.
 23. Charles H. Austin, 2241 N. 29th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
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 45. Raymond L. Caldwell, 835 Highland Ave., Lancaster, Pa.
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Sells the old time novels that used to
thrill.

Boys of fifty years ago, Your Dads
and Grandpas of today,

They used to read them secretly in at-
tics and lofts of new mown hay.

Now listen you youngsters of the
present age,

Let me give you some advice that is
very sage.

Buy a bunch of Ralph's novels, do it
today, do it now,

As gifts for Grandpa or Dad: they'll
be pleased and how?

If you don't know just what kind to
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Pass words along to Ralph—don't fret.
Tell Ralph the year of Dad's or
Grandpa's birth,

Ralph will make a selection—you'll
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I'm sure you'll never regret the kindly
deed,

If you my advice will take and heed.
You surely will be pleased when you
espy Dad or Grandpa.

Sitting in the old easy chair once
more reading the old timers—Ha!

Ha!

SINBAD THE SAILOR.
(G.F.O's pen name.)

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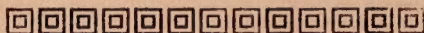
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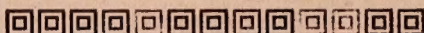


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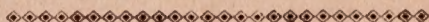


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168. Zo, a Perfect ? By A. A. Burr, or
951 of Seaside Library, Pocket
Edition.

Arden Court.

When Lovely Maiden Stoops To
Folly, By Laura J. Libby.

WM. J. BENNERS

1815 N. 16th St., Philadelphia, Pa.



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Vol. XXV.

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Vol. XXVI.

Nos. 1 to 28.

Vol. XXVII.

Nos. 6 to 52.

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